Gordon Liddy to be paroled Sept. 7

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WASHINGTON (AP) — His code of silence unbroken and his motives for the Watergate burglary still a mystery, G. Gordon Liddy won parole from prison Tuesday. The U.S. Parole Commission set his release for Sept. 7.

By then, the one-time lawyer for Richard M. Nixon's re-election committee will have served 52 months in prison, more than two years longer any of the other 24 men sentenced for Watergate and related crimes.

Liddy, whose planning and direction of the Watergate burglary set in motion the events that forced Nixon's resignation, must still pay his $40,000 fine or have it "otherwise disposed of according to law before release."

His lawyer, Peter Maroulis, said "that means to me if he has the funds he must pay them or he must file an affidavit of indigency, indicating he doesn't have the funds."

And, Maroulis added: "He doesn't."

Liddy devised the Republican intelligence plan that included the bugging and rifling of files of Democratic party headquarters in the Watergate Office Building. He and another former White House aide, E. Howard Hunt, recruited the five burglars who were arrested inside Watergate June 17, 1972 during their second entry.

Subsequent White House efforts to hide administration links to the burglary, including the alleged approval of former Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell of the plan, were behind the cover-up that toppled Nixon and sent his top aides to prison.

With Liddy's release, only Mitchell and former Nixon lieutenants H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman still will be serving Watergate sentences.

Ironically, it was through the intervention of a Democratic president, Jimmy Carter, that Liddy's parole eligibility was advanced from May 1981.